

A DESCRIPTION  
OF  
THE ROYAL HOSPITAL  
FOR  
SEAMEN,  
AT GREENWICH.

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“They that go down to the sea in ships . . . see the works of the Lord, and  
his wonders in the deep.” *Psalm cvii.*

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ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

A Revised Edition.

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THE  
ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR SEAMEN  
AT  
GREENWICH.

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THE Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich has for ages been the admiration of the civilised world. In architectural beauty it is not excelled ; while the noble uses to which the fabric is applied cast an additional charm over the whole.

The Royal Hospital is situated on the right or southern bank of the Thames. The terrace fronting it, including the newly cleared land to the westward, extends 1182 feet in a straight line, nearly east and west.

The eastern and western façades were, until lately, considerably obscured from view by walled gardens and out-houses. In 1849, however, these were demolished, and the spaces laid out in gravel walks and grass plots, in accordance with the original plan of Sir Christopher Wren, under the direction of Philip Hardwick, Esq., R.A., the architect of the institution.

The fabric comprises four distinct piles, named respectively King Charles's (north-west quarter) ; Queen Ann's (north-east) ; King William's (south-west) ; and Queen Mary's (south-east quarter). The foundation stone of King Charles's Building was laid in 1667, upon the site previously occupied by the palace of Placentia, celebrated as the birth-place of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth. On the restoration of Charles II., the ancient palace was in so dilapidated a condition that it was determined to pull it down and build a royal residence in its place. The new building was designed by Inigo

Jones, and erected by Mr. Webb ; but it remained in an unfinished state on the accession of William and Mary.

In 1694, the design of converting the palace into a residence for worn out and wounded seamen was agreed upon ; and this wise and beneficent measure was ratified by a deed, bearing date October 25, 1694. The deed was granted to Sir John Somers, Knt., Keeper of the Great Seal, and others ;—“ all that piece or parcel of ground situate, lying, “ and being within the parish of East Greenwich, and being “ parcel or reputed parcel of our Manor of East Greenwich “ aforesaid, containing in the whole eight acres, two roods, “ and thirty-two square perches,” and “ all that capital “ messuage lately built, or in building, by our royal uncle, “ King Charles II., and still remaining unfinished, com- “ monly called by the name of our Palace at Greenwich,” to erect and found a Hospital “ for the relief and support of “ Seamen serving on board the ships or vessels belonging to “ the Navy Royal of us, our heirs, or successors ; or employed “ in our or their service at sea ; who, by reason of age, “ wounds, or other disabilities, shall be incapable of further “ service at sea, and be unable to maintain themselves ; and “ also for the sustentation of the widows, and maintenance “ and education of the children of Seamen happening to be “ slain or disabled in such sea-service.” In Bayer’s History of King William and Queen Mary, it is said, speaking of the latter,—“ The last great project that her thoughts were “ working upon, with relation to this noble and royal pro- “ vision for disabled seamen at Greenwich, was particularly “ designed to be so constituted, as to put them in a pro- “ bable way of ending their days in the fear of God.”

In March, 1695, King William (Queen Mary having died in 1694, three months after founding the Hospital) appointed nearly two hundred Commissioners, including George, hereditary Prince of Denmark, who held their first meeting at Guildhall, London, May 5th, 1695. At their second meeting, on the 17th of the same month, they appointed a Committee to view the ground which had been granted, who reported that King Charles’s unfinished Palace might, with

an addition on the western side, be made capable of receiving three or four hundred Pensioners.

In 1695, the King granted 2,000*l.* per annum towards building the Hospital, and nearly 8,000*l.* was subscribed by various individuals in aid of the funds.

The plans which the Committee had caused to be prepared for the proposed additions having received the King's approbation, the foundation of the new bass-building, adjoining the Palace, was laid June 30th, 1696, by John Evelyn, Esq., Treasurer, and was completed two years afterwards—the Architect being Sir Christopher Wren, who generously undertook the commission without emolument.

In 1698, Sir Christopher Wren submitted a plan for a large dining hall (the present Painted Hall) and the necessary portion of ground being immediately laid out, the whole was roofed in, and the dome erected, by August 1703, forming the south-west, or King William's Building.

The foundation of the north-east, or Queen Anne's Building, was also laid in 1698.

In 1699 the foundation of the south-east, or Queen Mary's Building, was laid, but the building, for want of funds, was not completed till 1752.

#### **FABRIC.**

KING CHARLES'S and QUEEN ANNE'S Buildings, as already mentioned, are those immediately facing the river, and they are divided by the great square, 270 feet in width. The view which opens from the north gate is very imposing. Beyond the square are seen the Hall and Chapel with their finely proportioned domes, and the two colonnades, having the appearance of an avenue, terminated by the house built by Inigo Jones, for Queen Henrietta Maria, and now known as the Queen's House, having over the hall door on the north side "Henrietta Maria Regina, 1635." Greenwich Park and the Royal Observatory are seen in the distance.

In the centre of the great square is a fine statue of King George II., sculptured by Rysbrach out of a single block of



white marble, weighing eleven tons. This block was taken from the French by Admiral Sir George Rooke, and the statue was presented by Sir John Jennings, Governor of the Hospital.

King Charles's Building is on the west side of the great square. Its eastern portion formed the unfinished Palace of Charles II.; and is of Portland stone rusticated. In the centre is a tetrastyle portico of the Corinthian order, crowned with its proper entablature and pediment. In the tympanum of this pediment is a piece of sculpture consisting of two figures, one representing FORTITUDE, the other DOMINION OF THE SEA; and at each end is a pavilion formed by four pilasters of the Corinthian order, with entablature, and surmounted by an attic with a balustrade. The north front has two similar pavilions, each having its proper pediment, supported by a range of lofty Corinthian columns with entablature. In the tympanum of the eastern pediment is a piece of sculpture representing MARS and FAME, and in the frieze is the following inscription:

### CAROLVS II REX

A. REG. XVI.

In the centre of this front is a handsome portal leading into an inner quadrangle, which separates the wing of King Charles's Palace from what is called the Bass-building. This part was formerly of brick, but having fallen into decay, it was taken down in 1810, and re-built in 1814, in conformity with the general style of the building.

The west front is of the Corinthian order, the centre ornamented with six columns, over which is an attic containing a large panel intended to receive sculpture; it is enriched on each side with pilasters, crowned with handsome balustrades; and in the frieze is the following inscription—

### GEORGIVS III REX

A. REGNI LV. A.D. MDCCCXIV.

The south front corresponds with that of the north, with the exception of the sculpture and inscription. In this

building are the apartments of the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor, the Council Room, Officers' and Pensioners' Libraries, &c., with wards for 523 men. One of these, called after this portion of the building "King Charles's Ward," is open every day for the inspection of the public.

Queen Anne's Building is on the east side of the great square; it corresponds with King Charles's Building, except that the pediments are still without sculpture. It contains, besides apartments for Officers, wards for 424 Pensioners.

To the south of King Charles's quarter stands King William's. In this Building is the Painted Hall, which, with the dome, was designed and erected by Sir Christopher Wren. The tambour of the dome is surrounded by duplicate columns of the Composite order, with four projecting groups of columns at the quoins, and the cupola is terminated with a turret surmounted with a gilt vane. There are also, facing north and south, dials worked by complicated machinery, indicating the direction of the wind. The west front of this Building is of brick, ornamented in the centre with four massive columns of the Doric order, each nearly six feet in diameter, with entablature and triglyphs, of Portland stone. At each end is a pavilion, crowned with a circular pediment. In the pediment at the north end is a piece of sculpture, consisting of groups of marine trophies, and heads representing the four winds, with a sea-lion and unicorn. This part was erected by Sir John Vanbrugh, who was Surveyor to the Hospital from 1716 to 1726. The north and south fronts are of stone.

This Building, in addition to the Painted Hall and apartments for Officers, contains wards for 505 Pensioners, a dining-hall, and kitchen, in which three meals a day can be prepared for one thousand Pensioners.

On the eastern side of the square in King William's Building, in the tympanum of the pediment, is an emblematical representation of the "DEATH OF NELSON," in alto-relievo, designed by West, and modelled under his direction in 1812. In the centre is BRITANNIA, seated on a rock washed by the ocean, receiving from one of the atten-

dant Tritons at the command of Neptune, the dead body of Nelson; Victory supports the body with one hand, while with the other she presents to Britannia the trident of the god, in token of the dominion of the sea; behind Neptune, who is seated in his shell, drawn by sea-horses, is a British sailor, announcing "TRAFALGAR" as the scene of the hero's death: to the left of Britannia is represented a naval genius recording the victories of the Nile and Copenhagen; before whom is a British lion, holding in his paws a tablet inscribed "Nelson's cxxii Battles;" adjoining these are the sister kingdoms, England, Scotland, and Ireland, with their emblems, the rose, thistle, and shamrock; they are reclining affectionately on each other, and expressing the deepest sorrow. On the south side of the pediment are various naval implements of war, and on the north side is represented the destruction of the enemy's fleet at Trafalgar.

Queen Mary's Building stands to the east of King William's. It contains the Chapel, a dining-hall, and kitchen, fitted with steam cooking apparatus, wards for 1081 Pensioners, spacious bath rooms, and barber's shop. The dome corresponds with King William's Building in all respects, excepting that its northern and southern faces exhibit a clock. The rest of the Building was intended to have been similar, but it has been finished in a plainer style.

The colonnades adjoining King William's and Queen Mary's Buildings are 116 feet asunder, and are composed of upwards of 300 duplicated Doric columns and pilasters of Portland stone, 20 feet high, with an entablature and balustrade. They are each 347 feet in length, having return pavilions at the end 70 feet in length.

The west entrance to the Hospital is formed by massive rusticated stone piers with iron gates; one supporting a terrestrial, the other a celestial globe, each formed of stone, six feet in diameter. On the celestial globe are inlaid with copper, 24 meridians, the equinoctial, ecliptic, tropic, and polar circles. On the terrestrial, the principal circles are inlaid in the same manner, with the parallels of latitude to every ten degrees in each hemisphere. The globes are fixed



in an oblique position, agreeably to the latitude of the place where they stand.

The ornamental iron gates at the eastern entrance are remarkable for the beauty and excellence of the workmanship.

#### **THE PAINTED HALL, OR NAVAL GALLERY.**

The Painted Hall was originally used as a Refectory for the Pensioners—the Upper Hall for the Officers; but as the number of Pensioners progressively increased, a different arrangement became necessary, and it was retained as a depository for objects of national interest.

In 1823, at the suggestion and under the superintendence of Edward Hawke Locker, Esq., the Secretary of the Hospital, it was prepared for the reception of naval pictures. The plan was approved and patronized by his Majesty, King George IV., who presented a valuable series of portraits from the galleries of Windsor Castle and Hampton Court, besides paintings from his Majesty's private collections at St. James's Palace and Carlton House.\*

The entrance to the principal Hall is through a vestibule, the cupola of which has lately been re-decorated and restored. In the covings, in chiaro-oscuro, are the four winds with their different attributes. In the four corners of the vestibule are colossal statues of Nelson, Howe, Duncan, and St. Vincent.

From this vestibule a flight of steps leads into the Saloon or Grand Hall, which is 106 feet in length, 56 feet wide, and 50 feet high. A lofty range of Corinthian pilasters, standing on a basement, and supporting a rich entablature, ornaments this Saloon, but which are now in part hidden by the massive gold frame work and crimson cloth rendered necessary in order to give effect to the paintings.

Over the western arch are the British Arms, finely sculptured, supported by MARS and MINERVA; and in the frieze round the Hall is the following inscription, "Pietas

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\* For an account of these paintings, with the names of the donors and artists, see a "Catalogue of the Portraits," &c. to be had at the Painted Hall.

“augusta ut habitent securé et publicé alantur qui publicæ securitati invigilârunt, regia Grenovici, Mariæ auspiciis, sublevandis nautis destinata regnantibus Gulielmo et Mariâ, MDCXCIV.” Which has been thus translated :—The pious regard of Queen Mary dedicated this Palace of Greenwich for the relief and maintenance, at the public expense, of those Seamen who have protected the public safety, in the reign of William and Mary, 1694.

The ceiling (which is graphically described in “The Lover,” by Sir Richard Steele, written at the period when the work was just completed,) is beautifully painted in compartments. In the centre is a large oval frame supported by eight gigantic figures of slaves; within the oval are the figures of the royal founders, KING WILLIAM and QUEEN MARY, seated on a throne under a canopy, attended by the four cardinal Virtues. Over the Queen’s head is CONCORD, and at her feet two doves denoting concord and mutual agreement; CUPID is holding the sceptre of the King, while he is presenting PEACE with the lamb and olive branch, and LIBERTY (represented by the Athenian Cap) to Europe, who, laying her crowns at his feet, receives the gift with gratitude. The King tramples Tyranny under his feet, which is expressed by a French personage with his leaden crown falling off, his chains, yoke, and iron sword broken to pieces; cardinal’s cap, triple-crowned mitres, &c. tumbling down. Just beneath is TIME bringing TRUTH to light; near to whom is ARCHITECTURE attended by the little Genii of her art, holding a drawing of part of the Hospital with the cupola, and pointing to the Royal Founders. Beneath her are WISDOM and HEROIC VIRTUE (represented by PALLAS and HERCULES) destroying AMBITION, ENVY, COVETOUSNESS, DETRACTION, CALUMNY, and other vices, which seem to fall to the earth, the place of their more natural abode. Over the royal conopy is APOLLO in his golden chariot, drawn by four white horses, attended by the Horæ, and morning dews falling before him, going his course through the twelve signs of the Zodiac; and from him the whole ceiling is enlightened.

Each end of the ceiling is raised in perspective, with a balustrade and elliptic arches, supported by groups of stone figures, which form a gallery of the whole breadth of the hall; in the centre of this gallery going into the upper hall is seen, as though on the stocks, the tafferil of the *Blenheim* man-of-war, with her galleries and port-holes open; towards her, VICTORY is flying with spoils taken from the enemy. Before this ship is a figure representing the City of London, with the arms, sword, and Cap of Maintenance, supported by THAME and ISIS, with other rivers offering up their treasures to her. On each side of the ship are the arts and sciences relating to navigation; the great ARCHIMEDES; old philosophers consulting the compass, &c. In the centre of the opposite gallery is the stern of a beautiful galley, filled with Spanish trophies; underneath is the Humber; the Severn, with the Avon falling into her; and other rivers. In the north end of the gallery is the famous Tycho Brahe, a noble Danish knight; near him is Copernicus, with his Pythagorean system in his hand; and an old mathematician. In the south end are portraits of Mr. Flamstead and his disciple, Mr. Thomas Weston. In Mr. Flamstead's hand is a scroll of paper, on which is drawn the great eclipse of the sun which happened in April 1715; near him is an old man with a pendulum, counting the seconds of time as Mr. Flamstead makes his observations on the descent of the moon on the Severn, which, at certain times, forms a roll of the tides, very dangerous to shipping, called the Eagre. This is also expressed by rivers falling, through the moon's influence, into the Severn. The great rivers at each end of the Hall have their product of fish issuing out of their vases. In the angles of the ceiling are the four elements, EARTH, AIR, FIRE, and WATER, represented by CYBELE, JUNO, JUPITER, and NEPTUNE, who are accompanied by their lesser deities, namely, the Fauni, Iris, Vulcan, and Amphitrite, with their proper attributes. At the east end of the oval is FAME descending, riding on the Winds, and sounding the praises of the Royal Founders. At each angle of the grand or principal Hall is a full length statue. To the



right, on entering the Hall, will be Vice-Admiral Lord Collingwood, K.B.; to the left is Admiral Lord de Saumarez, G.C.B., in Sicilian marble; and at the upper end are placed those of Admirals Sir Sidney Smith, G.C.B., and Lord Viscount Exmouth, G.C.B., both in statuary marble.

From the Principal a flight of steps leads into the Upper Hall, the ceilings and sides of which are adorned with different paintings. In the centre of the ceiling is represented Queen Anne and Prince George of Denmark, accompanied by various emblematical figures. In the four corners are the arms of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, and between these the four quarters of the world, Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, with their several emblems and productions. To the left is a painting in imitation of basso-relievo, representing the landing of the Prince of Orange, afterwards King William III. To the right, over the chimney-piece, is the landing of King George I. at Greenwich; and on the wall, facing the entrance, are portraits of that monarch, and two generations of his family, surrounded by the tutelary virtues; below which Sir James Thornhill, the painter, has introduced his own portrait: in the back ground appears the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral. On the right and left of the entrance are also allegorical paintings, representing the PUBLIC WEAL and PUBLIC SAFETY. In the centre upon a marble pedestal, presented by the late Queen Dowager, stands a splendid bust of His late Majesty King William IV., by Chantrey; and a colossal bust in bronze of Nelson, by the same artist, presented by his relict, Lady Chantrey, is placed on the northern side of the Hall.

Adjoining the Upper Hall is a room formerly the Record room of the Hospital, which was fitted up for the reception of pictures and relics appertaining to the career of the great Lord Nelson. It is not, however, appropriated exclusively to this purpose, but contains portraits, marble busts, and original paintings of distinguished naval officers and others connected with the arts, and representations of their exploits.

The whole of this celebrated work was executed by Sir



James Thornhill. He commenced it in 1708, and completed it in 1727, receiving for his labour the inadequate sum of 6,685*l.*, being at the rate of 8*l.* per yard for the ceiling, and 1*l.* per yard for the sides.

#### RELICS.

The coat and waistcoat worn by Vice-Admiral Viscount Nelson when he received his mortal wound, on the quarter-deck of the *Victory*, at Trafalgar, presented by His Royal Highness Prince Albert; and the coat worn by that lamented hero at the battle of the Nile, together with the relics of Sir John Franklin's ill-fated Polar Expedition, recovered by Dr. Rae in 1854, are here preserved in glass cases. Also, several enriched models of distinguished ships of the Royal Navy, including that of the *Victory*, lost in 1744; of the *Centurion*, which bore Commodore Anson's broad pendant in his voyage round the world; and the *Royal George*, sunk at Spithead, 1782.

The astrolabe of Sir Francis Drake, an obsolete instrument, but used by that early circumnavigator for nautical observations, is placed on the model of a ship's capstan.

#### THE CHAPEL.

On the 2nd January 1779, the dome, together with the interior and roof of the chapel, were destroyed by fire. Having been restored in an elegant style of Grecian architecture from designs by James Stuart, Esq., Surveyor of the Hospital, it was reopened for Divine Service, September 20th, 1789. In 1851, the Chapel underwent a complete renovation; the entrance is by an octangular vestibule, in which are statues in artificial stone, of FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY, and MEEKNESS, from designs by West, with appropriate inscriptions.

From the vestibule a flight of semicircular steps leads into the Chapel, through folding doors of mahogany, highly enriched with an architrave, frieze, and cornice of statuary marble. The jambs are in one piece, twelve feet high, and beautifully sculptured. The frieze, which is the work of

Bacon, consists of the figures of two Angels, with festoons, supporting the sacred writings. In the leaves is the following inscription: "The law was given by Moses, but Grace and "Truth came by Jesus Christ." The whole composition of this portal is, perhaps, without parallel in this or any other country. The Chapel is 111 feet in length, and 52 feet in width; and the aisle and spaces round the altar and beneath the organ gallery are paved with black and white marble, having a border of the same, corresponding in size with, and in imitation of, a first-rate's hempen cable. In the centre of the aisle are representations of an anchor (the crown bearing due north), and the mariner's compass.

The ceiling is divided into compartments, and elegantly ornamented with foliage, and other designs in the antique style.

The Chapel is lighted by two ranges of windows, between which are the galleries, containing pews for the Officers and their families. The lower part of the Chapel is appropriated to the Pensioners and Nurses, and contains seats for about 1,400 persons.

Within the entrance is a portico of six fluted columns supporting the organ gallery, with capitals and bases of the Ionic order, after fine Greek models; each column is 15 feet high, and formed of one entire block of veined marble. On the tablet, in front of the organ-gallery, is a basso-relievo, representing angels sounding the harp; and on the pedestals, on each side, are ornaments consisting of instruments of music.

Beneath the organ-gallery, to the right and left of the doorway, are fixed, on appropriate sculptured statuary marble pedestals, busts of Admiral Sir Richard Goodwin Keats, G.C.B., and Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Masterman Hardy, Bart., G.C.B., two successive Governors of the Hospital. The Bust of Sir Richard Keats is a fine head by Sir Francis Chantrey, presented, in 1836, by His late Majesty King William IV. in testimony of His Majesty's personal esteem for the Admiral (in whose watch His Majesty when a midshipman was stationed), and in commemoration

of the valuable services he rendered to his country. The Bust of Sir Thomas Hardy, which is a faithful likeness, executed by Behnes, was presented by a few of the Admiral's admirers and friends, in 1842, and records the grateful sense entertained of his good qualities as a Naval Commander, of his distinguished professional character, as Nelson's Captain, and of his worth as a Governor.

On each side of the organ-gallery are four grand columns, with shafts of scagliola, in imitation of Sienna marble, and capitals and bases of statuary marble. At the eastern end of the Chapel, are four others of a similar description supporting the roof. These columns are of the Corinthian order, and are 28 feet in height, exclusive of the pedestals.

Underneath the galleries are ranges of fluted pilasters; the cantilivers which support the galleries are decorated with marine ornaments, festoons, &c., and the pedestals of the balustrade, in front of the galleries, with tridents and wreaths. The tablets in the middle of each balustrade contain the Hospital arms, and the frieze below is richly carved with foliage. Over the lower range of windows are admirable paintings in chiaro-oscuro, commemorative of some of the principal events in the life of our Saviour. Of these paintings the first four, situated at the east end of the south side of the Chapel, are by De Bruyn, and represent The Nativity,—The Angel appearing to the Shepherds,—The Magi worshipping,—and The Flight into Egypt. The following four on the same side are by Catton, and represent St. John baptizing,—Calling of St. Peter and St. Andrew,—Our Saviour preaching from a Ship to the People on the Shore,—and the Stilling of the Tempest. The four subjects at the west end of the north side are painted by Milburne, and represent, Our Saviour walking on the Sea, and Saving St. Peter from sinking,—The Blind Man cured by a Touch,—Lazarus raised from the Dead,—and The Transfiguration. The remaining four, on the same side, are by Rebecca, and represent, The Lord's Supper,—Our Saviour carried before Pilate,—The Crucifixion,—and The Resurrection.



Above the galleries is a richly-carved stone fascia, on which stands a range of pilasters of the Composite order, their shafts being of scagliola, to correspond with the eight columns before mentioned, and with them appearing to support the epistylum which surrounds the Chapel ; this epistylum is enriched with angels bearing festoons of oak leaves, dolphins, shells, and other ornaments. Between the upper pilasters are recesses, in which are painted, in relief, the Apostles and Evangelists, by Rebecca, after West's designs.

At each end of the galleries are concave recesses, the coves of which are ornamented with coffers and flowers carved in stone ; in these recesses are the entrance-doors to the galleries, decorated with enriched pilasters and entablatures, and a group of ornaments, consisting of the naval crown, wreaths of laurel, and tridents. Above the doors are circular recesses containing paintings, in chiaro-oscuro, of the patriarch Moses, of David, and of the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah, from designs by West, finely executed by Rebecca.

The communion table is a semi-oval slab of statuary marble nearly eight feet in length, supported by six cherubim in bronze, standing on a marble step of the same dimensions as the table ; the ascent to it is by three steps of black marble, the upper step being surmounted by an ornamental railing, representing festoons of ears of corn, and wine foliage.

The painting over the altar is by West, surrounded by a superbly carved and gilt frame, representing the "Preservation of St. Paul from Shipwreck, on the Island of Melita." This picture is 25 feet in height, and 14 feet wide, and consists of three principal groups : the first, or lower group, represents the mariners and prisoners bringing on shore the various articles which were preserved from the wreck ; the centre and principal group represents St. Paul shaking into the fire the viper which had fastened on his hand ; and the figures above, forming the third group, represent the hospitable islanders lowering, from the summit of the rock, fuel and other necessities for the relief of the sufferers. The



sea and wrecked ship (which, at this point of time, must be considered as an episode,) appear in the background; the whole forming a scene in good keeping, and highly characteristic of the glorious asylum for Naval misfortune and Naval worth, in which this work of art is placed.

In the arch above this picture are two angels of statuary marble by Bacon, one bearing the Cross, the other the emblems of the Eucharist; and in the segment, between the cornice and the ceiling, is a painting, in chiaro-oscuro, of the Ascension, designed by West, and executed by Bacon, forming the last of a series of paintings, representing the life of our Saviour, which adorn the chapel.

The pulpit, which is circular, is particularly chaste. It is supported by six columns of lime-tree with entablature, richly carved. In the six inter-columns are alto-relievos of the following subjects from West's designs, taken from the Acts of the Apostles:—the Conversion of St. Paul, Cornelius' Vision, Peter released from Prison, Elymas struck blind, St. Paul preaching at Athens, and Paul pleading before Felix.

The reading-desk, constructed wholly of satin-wood, is square, with columns and entablatures at the four corners, similar to those of the pulpit; in the four inter-columns are alto-relievos of the prophets Daniel, Micah, Zecharia, and Malachi. The pulpit and reading-desk were for a long time placed the one under the other, but when the Chapel was last under repair, the two structures were separated, very much to the advantage of both.

The organ,\* which is by Green, was erected in 1787. It

\* The following is a full description of the Organ:

**GREAT ORGAN.** *Compass:*—FFF to eee. *Stops:*—Open Diapason; Open Diapason; Stopt Diapason; Principal; Flute; Twelfth; Fifteenth; Sesquialtra; Mixture; Trumpet; Claribella; Clarion.

**CHOIR ORGAN.** *Compass:*—FFF to eee. *Stops:*—Stopt Diapason; Principal; Flute; Fifteenth; Cremona.

**PEDAL ORGAN.** *Compass:*—FFF to c. *Stop:*—One octave of Open Pipe from CCC to CC.

**SWELL ORGAN.** *Compass:*—FF to eee. *Stops:*—Open Diapason; Stopt Diapason; Duleiana; Octave (above) Duleiana; Principal; Cornet; Trumpet; Hautboy.

**COUPLERS:**—Choir to Great; Swell to Great; Pedals to Great; Pedals to Choir.

is a fine instrument, more remarkable for mellowness and sweetness of tone than for great power.

#### **INFIRMARY.**

The Infirmary, surrounded by an ornamental iron railing, lies to the west of the Hospital, and was erected in 1763. A portion of it was destroyed by fire in the year 1811, fortunately without being attended by loss of life. It is a quadrangular building of brick, stuccoed, three stories in height, and contains sixty-nine rooms capable of accommodating three hundred and twenty-four patients; and is provided with a good medical library, and hot and cold baths. It contains also a small chapel, surgery, and dispensary, and apartments for the Inspector, Deputy-Inspector, Surgeon, Dispenser, and three Assistant Surgeons. Adjacent to the Infirmary is a building of one story, called the Helpless Ward, for the accommodation of eighty-four helpless Pensioners and their Nurses.

#### **OTHER BUILDINGS.**

Opposite the Infirmary, to the southward, is the cemetery of the Hospital, appropriated for that purpose in 1749, containing about two acres and a half.

To the north of the Infirmary, near the river, are the Hospital Brewery and Bakery; and Mews for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Commissioners, Captains, and some of the principal Officers.

#### **CIVIL OFFICES.**

Opposite the east gate of the Hospital is a spacious building containing the Commissioners' Board-room, and the necessary offices for the Secretary, Cashier, Steward, and Clerk of the Cheque, and their establishments.

#### **GOVERNMENT.**

By Queen Anne's Commission, dated July 21st, 1703, seven Commissioners were appointed, to form a General Court, whereof the Lord High Admiral, the Lord Treasurer

or any two Privy Councillors, were to form a quorum. The Governor and Treasurer were appointed by patent, and all the other necessary officers by the Lord High Admiral, on the recommendation of the General Court, which was held quarterly. The same Commission appointed twenty-five Directors, called the Standing Committee, who met once every fortnight; and vested the internal government in the Governor, and a council of Officers appointed by the Lord High Admiral. By a charter, dated December 6th, 16th George III., the Commissioners became a corporate body, with full power to finish the building, to provide for Seamen, either within or without the Hospital, to make byelaws, &c. This charter was superseded by an Act of Parliament, passed in 1829, "for the better management of the affairs of Greenwich Hospital," by virtue of which five Commissioners were appointed, in whom the estates and property of the Hospital are now vested. The Civil officers serving under the Commissioners are the Secretary, Cashier, Steward, Clerk of the Cheque, two Inspectors of Works, Master Brewer, &c.

The Military establishment consists of a Governor, Lieutenant-Governor (both flag officers), four Captains, four Commanders, eight Lieutenants, two Masters, Military Superintendent of Halls, two Chaplains, Medical Inspector, Deputy Medical Inspector, Surgeon, four Assistant Surgeons, Dispenser, and Assistant Dispenser.

#### THE PENSIONERS.

The Pensioners must be Seamen or Royal Marines, who by their servitude at sea in the Royal Navy, or wounds received, have established a claim to the benefits of the Institution. Merchant seamen who have been wounded in action with the ship of an enemy, or in fight against a pirate or rebel, are also eligible for admission. The number of inmates is liable to fluctuation, the full complement being 2,710. In December 1705, forty-two seamen were admitted. In 1708, the number had increased to 300. Thirty years later 1,000 were borne; and in 1770, there were 2,000



The complement remained at 2,350 until 1814, when it was augmented to 2,710.

Men in the receipt of out-pensions relinquish them for the time they are domiciled in the Hospital, but they are at liberty, under certain restrictions, to resume their pensions and leave the Institution, being eligible for re-admission after the lapse of a year.

While in the enjoyment of the benefits of the Hospital they are provided with every necessary. They mess in common in spacious halls or crypts beneath the Chapel and Painted Hall, with the exception of a limited number, who are allowed the value of their provisions in money in lieu of rations. Their food is of the best description, varied daily by a new and liberal arrangement of diet introduced in 1853. By the new scale of diet for summer, the men are allowed for breakfast 8 oz. of bread and one pint of chocolate, with milk and sugar; and at supper, the same allowance of bread, with butter, and a pint of tea. The dinner is thus varied:—  
 Sunday: beef roasted, 12 oz.; suet pudding,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  oz.; potatoes, 8 oz. Monday: Beef boiled, 12 oz.; a pint of rice broth well seasoned and garnished with vegetables; potatoes, 8 oz. Tuesday: mutton roasted, 12 oz.; potatoes, 8 oz. Wednesday: same as Monday. Thursday: the same as Tuesday, with the addition of boiled suet pudding. Friday: beef boiled, 12 oz.; with maccaroni broth, and potatoes. Saturday: mutton boiled, 12 oz.; rice broth and potatoes.

The winter diet comprises the same breakfast and supper, and the same dinner on Sundays. Monday: boiled mutton, broth, and potatoes. Tuesday: corned pork, pea soup, and potatoes. Wednesday: roast mutton, pudding, and potatoes. Thursday: corned beef, carrots, and potatoes. Friday: boiled beef, with maccaroni broth, and potatoes; and Saturday, corned pork, pea soup, and potatoes. When potatoes cannot be had, 4 oz. of bread is substituted. Two pints of excellent beer is the daily allowance throughout the year, except on four days set apart as festival days, when each man is supplied with two quarts of strong ale. On these occasions also the pensioners are allowed, exclusive of



their ordinary fare (for which a money allowance is substituted), one pound of corned pork, and pea soup ; or mutton, if pork is not in season. On Christmas day the pensioners are regaled with plum pudding and roast beef.

The clothing has been somewhat changed of late. The original dress corresponded with that in common wear at the beginning of the last century ; but the knee-breeches have been exchanged for trowsers, and round hats have been allowed for daily wear. Cocked hats are issued, however, as before, and are worn on Sundays and on ceremonial occasions. Once in two years each man receives a complete suit of clothes, and annually a pair of trowsers, cocked hat, round hat, three pairs of stockings, and four pairs of shoes. Their linen is changed when worn out, their shoes repaired at the expense of the institution, and a great coat is allowed them, which is also changed when required. The money allowance to Private Pensioners is one shilling weekly ; to Mates, 2s. 6*d.*, Boatswains, 3s. 6*d.*, and Inspecting Boatswains, 5s. per week. One Regulating Boatswain or Yeoman of the Guard receives 2s., and a second 1s. 6*d.*, per diem. Men who are able to work may obtain situations in the Hospital, yielding from 3s. 6*d.* to 10s. 6*d.* a week, which they enjoy in addition to their allowances as Pensioners on the establishment.

A Library containing about 1,500 well selected volumes is provided for their exclusive use, which is also supplied with daily and weekly newspapers. Their wards are spacious, well ventilated, and lighted with gas. Each man has a separate bed-cabin, or distinct bed-place, well furnished with horsehair mattresses, bedding, &c. Each ward is in charge of a boatswain or mate ; the whole being under the supervision of the Officers of the Hospital. In case of sickness, the men are immediately removed to the Infirmary, where every comfort and all that can contribute to their ease and recovery is liberally and kindly dispensed.

The infirm and helpless men are located in ground-floor wards, under the superintendence of the Medical Officers ; while sick attendants are ever on the watch to administer

to their necessities. Bath, Merlin, and other chairs are supplied for their use, and when deemed necessary by the Inspector, the helpless men are drawn out into the Park, by persons hired for the purpose.

A commodious piazza has lately been built on the western side of the building, on the new ground, for the use of those who smoke tobacco.

Religious toleration is strictly observed; and Catholics and others who dissent from the Established Church obtain permission to attend their respective places of worship.

#### **NURSES.**

One hundred widows of Seamen and Royal Marines, are admitted as Nurses. These have charge of the linen and bedding in the Wards. They are not admissible over 45 years of age. Their provision allowances are the same as those of the Pensioners, and their wages, according to their duties, vary from 11*l.* to 20*l.* a-year; besides which they are allowed certain articles of clothing.

#### **REVENUE.**

The Hospital is supported by its own property, with the exception of a grant from the Consolidated Fund in lieu of Merchant Seamen's Sixpenny Duty formerly paid to it. The income consists in the interest of funded capital; rents of estates in Northumberland and Durham; rent of property in Greenwich; a fourth of the commission on conveyance of freight in Her Majesty's ships; and receipts at the Painted Hall.

#### **THE ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOLS.**

The Upper School, for the clothing, maintenance, and education of the children of seamen, is coeval with the establishment of the Royal Hospital. The Lower School, as it has now for some years been known, was originally the Naval Asylum, which was removed from Paddington to Greenwich in 1807. It remained a separate establishment

until the year 1821, when it was consolidated with the Hospital Schools.

The institution at Paddington originated in an attempted fraud. A man, in 1798, collected large sums of money under the pretence of supporting an institution for the education of seamen's children, which he styled the "The British Endeavour." Circumstances having transpired to excite suspicion, a meeting of the defrauded subscribers was convened, when the fraud became apparent, and the man was committed to prison. The undertaking, however, possessing such obvious utility, it was resolved to establish an institution upon a similar basis, but under proper management. His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland was appointed President, but the number of boys under a course of education never exceeded seventy, as the building could not accommodate more. In 1805, in consequence of a communication made to His Majesty King George III., that Monarch made it a Royal foundation.

In 1807, an Act of Parliament was passed conveying to the Commissioners of the Naval Asylum certain property, including the Ranger's Lodge, originally the favourite seat of Queen Henrietta Maria, called the Queen's House, which is now the centre building of the Hospital Schools. This Lodge was ceded to the Commissioners on the payment of 7,875*l.* to the Princess of Wales, for her life interest therein as Ranger of Greenwich Park. In the same year the children were removed to Greenwich, and shortly afterwards the two wings were erected.

The centre building contains apartments for one of the Commissioners of the Hospital, the Chaplain, Head Master of the Upper School, Matron, and the Nautical school-rooms.

The east wing is appropriated to the Lower School. It contains 400 boys, the children of Seamen in the Navy, or of Non-commissioned Officers and Privates of the Marines. The education embraces instruction in reading, writing, arithmetic, history, geography, practical mechanics, and a senior class is instructed in algebra, geometry, trigonometry;



navigation, the steam engine, &c., together with religious knowledge. The boys, being intended for the Royal Navy, enter into an engagement to serve continuously.

The west wing is the Upper School, which consists of 400 boys, the sons of Officers, Seamen, and Marines, in the Queen's service, and of Officers and Seamen in the Merchant service. They are admitted between the ages of ten and eleven. The education in this school embraces such mathematical instruction as is necessary for a proper knowledge of the principles of navigation, nautical astronomy, the theory and practice of marine surveying, construction of charts, and the practical use of instruments for magnetical and astronomical purposes, together with the usual elements of an English education, including instruction in the doctrines of Christianity.

A certain number of the Upper and Lower School boys receive instruction in the French language.

The two wings contain the Upper and Lower School rooms, dormitories, lavatories, refectory, and chapel. Each wing is 315 feet long, with handsome façades of the Doric order. The north and south termini or façades of these wings are appropriated as apartments to the Superintending Lieutenant, Secretary of the Hospital, Head Master of the Nautical School, and Head Master of the Lower School.

The wings are connected with the centre building by colonnades 180 feet in length, having two rows of Portland stone columns, of the Tuscan order.

Adjoining the eastern wing is a very compact and admirably arranged observatory, completely fitted with mural, transit, and other telescopes, clocks, &c., for the use of the boys.

To the westward are the Masters' Library, the School Library, and Lecture and Reading Rooms for the boys, in which lectures are given weekly upon every variety of scientific subjects. A capacious Swimming-bath is attached to the ground to the westward for the use of the boys; and on the eastern side are the Kitchen, Wash-houses, Laundries, and other necessary offices.



On the lawn, between the centre building and the Royal Hospital, is constructed a handsome model of the deck and upper works of a corvette of 500 tons, completely rigged, and with sails bent, wherewith the senior boys are exercised in reefing, furling, &c. The model ship is also supplied with small pieces of brass ordnance, in exercising which a number of the boys acquire a fundamental knowledge of gunnery. Under the bows of the ship is a large Turkish brass gun, captured by Admiral Sir John Duckworth's fleet at the passage of the Dardanelles, in 1807. The carriage on which it is mounted is ornamented with a number of medallions, enumerating many of the important victories of the British Navy. The gun was presented by His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland and other founders of the Naval Asylum, in the grounds of which establishment it formerly stood.

To the west of the present Schools and Hospital cemetery is an infirmary for the boys ; which building was originally the Upper School.

The Schools are supported from the general funds of the Royal Hospital.

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